Economic Summit held recently at New Delhi that after seven years of economic reforms, India is almost back to where she stood in 1991 and there was need for new strategy for creating a proper climate for her growth; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and whether Government share the perception of Managing Director of the W.E.F. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) A three-day 'India Economic Summit' was organised by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the confederation of Indian Industries in New Delhi from November 29 to December 1, 1998. The Managing Director of the World Economic Forum made a presentation on the Indian Economy and presented an intermediate and medium term agenda of Economic Reforms.

The Government's stand at the summit was that there was no reason for being unduly perturbed by the country's economy which is in good shape and that it was too early to make judgements regarding the annual performance of the economy. The economic policy of the country is stable and the process of economic reforms is going on.

Payment of Taxi/Scooter Charges to Persons living in Peripheral areas of Delhi

2565. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued a clarification recently to the SR-46, whereby persons residing in the peripheral towns have been debarred for payment of taxi/scooter charges from the place of residence on holidays while on tour whereas employees posted in those places are getting HRA/CCA at the same rates e.g.; and

(b) whether Government propose to allow officials residing in places such as Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, etc. as in the case of Faridabad to reimbursement of taxi/scooter charges when they go on tour from their place of residence on holidays; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) According to the existing orders, the population of the Urban Agglomeration, which is made up of a major city or town together with the adjoining areas of urban growth and is treated as one urban spread, is reckoned for the purpose of determining eligibility to CCA. On the other hand, the population residing with a Municipal Corporation/Municipality alone is taken as the basis for the classification of cities and towns for HRA. Therefore, the rates of CCA and HRA admissible in towns in the periphery of major cities are different even now.

Under the Travelling Allowance Rules, reimbursement of taxi/scooter charges for journeys on official tour is normally admissible only from the headquarters of the employees or their residences located at the headquarters to the railway station/airport/bus-stand and vice versa. The question of allowing such reimbursement to officials residing in peripheral towns, which are not their headquarters, does not, therefore, arise.

Upgradation of IES Officers

2566. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per DOPT order dated 4th February, 1992 and different High Court, CAT and Supreme Court judgements, upgradation in same post with same duties and responsibilities does not indicate promotion;

(b) whether about 25 IES officers had been upgraded from Deputy Economic Adviser/NFSG to the scale of Rs. 18000-22400 keeping their duties, responsibilities and functions same; and

(c) whether upgradation of IES officers, by changing its name in the higher scale is not a promotion, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The DOPT OM dated 4.2.92 referred to lays down criteria to be adopted in assessing the suitability of the incumbents of the posts and the date of appointment to the upgraded posts. It does not deliberate on the distinction between upgradation and promotion. However, courts have held that upgradation involves process of moving upwards while remaining on the same pedestal whereas promotion results in skipping to the higher place leaving behind the original pedestal.

Hence, as a result of upgradation if there are higher responsibilities and there is also shift from the original post to higher place then only it can be treated as promotion.

(b) and (c) It was posts which were upgraded following a Cadre review which justified such an upgradation based on higher functions and responsibilities.

चीन से नशीले पदार्थों की तस्करी

2567. **श्री रामजीलाल:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 30 सितम्बर, 1998 के 'राष्ट्रीय सहारा' के मुखपृष्ठ पर "चीन से भारत में नशीले पदार्थों की तस्करी" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं जिनके माध्यम से यह तस्करी की जा रही है और इसे रोकने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय में (बैंकिंग, राजस्व तथा बीमा) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम०आर० जनार्दनन):

(क) जी, हां।

(ख) चीन से अन्य देशों के जरिए भारत में नशीले पदार्थों को भेजने के बारे में कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं मिली है। तथापि, म्यानमार से थोड़ी मात्रा में स्थानीय उपभोग के लिए विशेष रूप से उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों में उपभोग के लिए नशीले पदार्थों के अवैध व्यापार के बारे में सरकार को जानकारी है। नशीले पदार्थों की मांग को कम करने और उनके अवैध व्यापार को रोकने के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा म्यानमार सरकार के साथ एक व्यापक द्विपक्षीय करार किया गया है। स्वापक औषधि एवं मनः प्रभावी द्रव्य-पदार्थ अधिनियम के अंतर्गत शक्ति प्राप्त सभी प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों द्वारा लगातार निगरानी रखी जाती है। नार्कोटिक्स नियंत्रण ब्यूरो के महानिदेशक द्वारा बैठकों में प्रवर्तन संबंधी ऐसी गतिविधियों की समय-समय पर समीक्षा की जाती है और इन बैठकों में सूचना और आसूचना के आदान-प्रदान के लिए कभी उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों के प्रतिनिधियों को शामिल किया जाता है। सीमा-सुरक्षा बल और तटरक्षकों को नशीले पदार्थों को निषिद्ध घोषित करने के लिए सीमा शुल्क अधिनियम के अंतर्गत शक्तियां प्रदान की गई हैं।

Foreign Branches of SBI and Bank of *Baroda*

2568. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of SBI and Bank of Baroda working abroad, country-wise;

(b) the number of those out of the above which are incurring losses;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more branches abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of Baroda (BOB) are having 22 and 39 branches respectively operating overseas as on 31st March, 1998. Country-wise location of the branches is given below: